



Sierra Club San Diego Chapter

HiSIERRAN

Serving San Diego And Imperial Counties

Vol 79 No. 1

Visit our website at: www.sandiegosierraclub.org

January/February/March 2020

Special Election Edition

Election Day March 3, 2020

Vote Yes on Measure A!

Safeguard Our San Diego Countryside

The purpose of Measure A, the Safeguard Our San Diego Countryside (SOS) Initiative, is to provide San Diego County residents with a stronger voice in how and where housing is built in the unincorporated county. Simply put, this grassroots initiative requires voter approval of proposed changes to the County's General Plan that would significantly increase residential density in fire-prone rural and semi-rural areas. Projects like Newland Sierra, Harmony Grove Village South, Valiano, and Adara are being approved by the Board of Supervisors in spite of strong community opposition and the negative traffic, air pollution, and climate impacts they will cause.

San Diego County's General Plan allows for the construction of 60,000 new housing units with a broad range of affordability, including apartments and condos, townhouses, and single-family homes. Measure A encourages the construction of these homes, which can be built now without any changes to the General Plan or public votes. Projects that provide genuine low income housing in accordance with state law are exempt from the initiative. New housing in areas close to roads and other infrastructure is less expensive to build and therefore more affordable. Measure A does not ban any new housing that is now allowed in the General Plan.

With just 3 votes, the Board of Supervisors can amend the General Plan to let developers, many of whom have supported the supervisors' political campaigns, build large sprawl housing developments on rural and semi-rural land far from jobs, schools, and services. These General Plan Amendments (GPAs) increase traffic and fire risks for the public while driving up profits for developers. SOS would bring transparency and oversight into the process by requiring developers to justify their amendments to the voters.

San Diego County's award-winning smart growth General Plan concentrates new housing in areas where roads, police

Measure A continued on page 2

VOTE NO on Measure B

- Newland Sierra

In September of 2018, the Board of Supervisors approved one of the largest and most egregious County General Plan amendments – the Newland Sierra project. This controversial approval caused a community outcry that fueled the countywide collection of 117,000 signatures in 17 days and qualified a referendum on the March 2020 ballot. (The only way to overturn approval is by referendum.)

Newland Sierra is a mega-development project of approx. 2,200 homes in a rural area zoned for 100. The project would add 6,000 residents --equal to a city the size of Del Mar – to North Twin Oaks Valley, which does not have the resources (like transit, water, sewer) for a large-scale development. Thousands of people are opposed to Newland Sierra because:

- Adds 6,000 residents to a rural area – tripling the community's size
- Adds 28,000 new trips per day to the surrounding transportation system making it nearly impossible to reach statewide greenhouse gas emission goals
- Located in a "Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone"
- Destroys sensitive habitat and eliminates one of two critical wildlife corridors under I-15
- Includes "offshore" offsets that deprive local residents of critical health benefits
- Does nothing to help the housing affordability crisis
- 10 years of construction, including blasting, rock crushing, truck traffic, noise and air quality impacts

Newland Sierra is a destructive and ill-conceived project that is opposed by dozens of community and interest groups, including the League of Women Voters, Climate Action Campaign, Escondido Neighbors United, Endangered Habitats League, Buena Vista Audubon Society, California Native Plant Society, Wildlife & Habitat Conservation League and the Sierra Club. Voters are urged to vote NO to stop this project that not only destroys the environment but contains NO actual affordable housing.

For more information about the No on Newland Sierra campaign, please visit www.noonewlandsierra.com.

Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet

HiSIERRAN

Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet

Sierra Club San Diego Chapter

8304 Clairemont Mesa Blvd. #101
San Diego, CA 92111
(858) 569-6005

Managing Editor

Judy Thomas (619) 462-5168
info@thomascreative.com

Creative Director

Scott Thomas (619) 462-5168
thomascreative@cox.net
www.thomascreative.com

Advertising

thomascreative@cox.net

Meetings and Activities

www.sandiegsierraclub.org

January/February/March

USPS - 896140

The Hi Sierran is published quarterly by the
San Diego Chapter of the Sierra Club,
8304 Clairemont Mesa Blvd. #101,
San Diego, CA 92111,
for members in San Diego
and Imperial counties.

Periodicals Postage Paid at San Diego, CA.
Postmaster: Send address changes to Hi
Sierran, Sierra Club Member Services P.O.
Box 421041
Palm Coast, FL 32142-6417

Address Correction?

Send your current mailing label and
your correct address to:
Sierra Club
P.O. Box 421041
Palm Coast, FL 32142-6417
or call Membership Services at
415-977-5653, Monday - Friday
between 9 am and 5 pm, Pacific Time.

Please allow 4-6 weeks for processing.

© Copyright 2020 Sierra Club San Diego, CA (Hi Sierran Newsletter). All rights reserved. Federal copyright law prohibits unauthorized reproduction by any means without proper consent and imposes fines up to \$30,000 for violation. For permission to reproduce or use any material from the Hi Sierran Newsletter, please email info@thomascreative.com and explain usage. Thank you.

A View from the Chair



David Hogan

It is a great honor to have been chosen as your new Chair of the San Diego Sierra Club Executive Committee and I look forward to working closely with new Vice Chair Lisa Ross to advance a strong agenda. We will work together to preserve our last natural lands from all threats, to protect our beleaguered climate by ending use of fossil fuels and supporting appropriate renewable energy, to support environmental justice in underserved communities, to connect people with nature through outdoor recreation, and to uphold and further the core values of this incredible organization.

The Sierra Club is the oldest and one of the largest and most influential environmental organizations in the world. But what really makes the Sierra Club stand out in a crowded field is its strong democratic structure where anyone with an interest has an opportunity to participate in an established organizational structure to disseminate and amplify important environmental issues. More than any other organization, the public and elected officials recognize the leading brand and voice of the Sierra Club and pay close attention to our positions on critical issues. This is both an enormous opportunity and responsibility.

Outgoing Executive Committee members deserve recognition and gratitude for their incredible leadership of the San

Measure A continued from page 1

and fire, schools, and other public services are already available. These locations are easier to defend from wildfire and have a lower taxpayer burden because they don't require the construction of new and wider roads, additional schools and fire stations, or expanded water and power lines. Large sprawl housing developments that require General Plan Amendments (GPAs) lack these benefits and increase the already significant fire danger in San Diego County's backcountry. SOS gives voters

Diego Sierra Club. Fred Rogers has been a voice for the strongest possible Sierra Club positions on conservation issues and has applied a seemingly bottomless knowledge and wisdom in politics to his continuing role as Chair of the Political Committee. George Courser has shared his knowledge and leadership on virtually every conservation issue in San Diego and beyond and will continue in this role as Chair of the Conservation Committee. Brian Elliot's passion for environmental issues and our mission has been the foundation for his grounded leadership on the Excom and as past Chair of the Political Committee. And former Executive Committee Chair Peter Anderson seems to have been everywhere at once on nearly every single issue of any importance to the Sierra Club. Whether it was our leading support for the San Diego State University West Initiative or opposing the myriad new awful sprawl development projects by writing letters and attending every County Board of Supervisors' or San Diego City Council meeting, Peter was there. Peter was also effective behind the scenes with time-consuming organizational management, not the least of which was his and Chapter Director Richard Miller's leadership to reinstate the San Diego Chapter. So, to all of our retiring Excom leaders, THANK YOU! And to all our members, please join us in Sierra Club leadership to help keep our momentum rolling!

an opportunity to say "NO" to dense developments in these fire-prone areas by rejecting unwise GPAs.

Please see the SOS website <https://saveourcountryside.org/>

for further information and how you as a Sierra Club member can assist in the battle to prevent bringing urban sprawl and wildfire risks in the rural and semi-rural areas of San Diego County.

Donations to help us get our message out are greatly needed and can be made on the SOS website.

Farewell from the Chair



By Peter Andersen

Sierra Club San Diego has a new executive committee led by Chairperson, David Hogan and Vice Chairperson Lisa Ross.

I am not going anywhere; I will still be active on legal committee and conservation committee of Sierra Club San Diego and the political committee of Sierra Club California.

It has been a wonderful 2 years as chapter chair and the successful collaborations with other Sierrans has been a real joy. Our fabulous environment law firm Chatten-Brown has won a whole series of lawsuits stopping sprawl developments and making the county improve and rewrite their climate action plan. Mitigations for greenhouse gas must now be done in San Diego County not in some far-off county where such mitigations may not be real, additional, verifiable, or enforceable.

Our wilderness basics course continues to train and certify dozens of people headed for the backcountry. Our outings groups sponsor trips of all sorts including skiing, backpacking, hiking, boating, and exploring.

Our club has increased housing in the county by endorsing important projects like SDSU Mission Valley that will provide housing for nearly 5000 people and Otay 250 a project near the border that will provide over 3000 new units. Sierra Club does not oppose development, we oppose sprawl development that reduce our quality of life.

Our political team continues to endorse candidates who win and help us protect the environment. March 3 is the California where you be sure to vote for Olga Diaz or Terra Lawson-Remer in the crucial race for county supervisor. Voters should be sure to vote Aye (yes) on proposition A, the Safeguard or San Diego Countryside (SOS) initiative and vote no on proposition B (bad) the Newland sprawl project. These two initiatives will help prevent wildfire, stop increase in traffic, and reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas.

It has been a pleasure to lead Sierra Club San Diego and I hope you will continue to collaborate on the important work to protect San Diego and the Planet.

2020 March Primary HiSierran Endorsements

U.S. Congress

49th Congressional Dist. - Mike Levin

51st Congressional Dist. - Juan Vargas

52nd Congressional Dist. - Scott Peters

State Senate

39th – Toni Atkins

State Assembly

76th - Tasha Boerner Horvath

80th - Lorena Gonzalez-Fletcher

San Diego County

Board of Supervisors, District 1 –

Rafael Castellanos

OPPOSE – Board of Supervisors, District 2 –
Joel Anderson

OPPOSE – Board of Supervisors, District 3 -
Kristen Gaspar

Measure A (Save Our San Diego
Countryside-SOS) – YES

Measure B (Newland Sierra Development) - NO

City of Chula Vista

City Council, District 3 – Steve Padilla

City of San Diego

City Council, District 1 – Joe LaCava

City Council, District 5 – Marni von Wilpert

City Council, District 7 – Raul Campillo

City Council, District 9 – Sean Elo

Candidate Statements



Mike Levin – U.S.
Representative,
49th District

www.mikelevin.org

Mike Levin is a passionate believer in clean energy and has over a decade of experience in the industry, helping to accelerate the transition towards more sustainable power generation and transportation options. Mike has served for several years on the board of the Center for Sustainable Energy, based in San Diego, and co-founded Sustain OC in Orange County.

Mike will fight for Medicare for All, affordable higher education, preventing gun violence, protecting Social Security, a woman's right to choose, and a \$15 federal minimum wage.

Mike lives in San Juan Capistrano with his wife Chrissy, and their two children, ages 5 and 3.



Juan Vargas –
U.S. Representative, 51st
District

Juan Vargas was first elected in 2012 to represent California's 51st Congressional District, which includes parts of San Diego County, all of Imperial County, and California's entire U.S.-Mexico border. Previously, Vargas served as a San Diego City Councilman, State Assemblyman, and State Senator.

A former Jesuit priest and child of farmworkers, Juan Vargas personally understands how Mother Earth, as Pope Francis writes, "governs and sustains us," and how issues of social and environmental justice are interconnected. A strong renewable energy supporter, Vargas maintains a 96% lifetime score from the League of Conservation Voters and a 99% score from Environment America.

<https://votevargas.com>



Scott Peters – 52nd
Congressional District

Congressman Scott Peters represents California's 52nd District, which includes Poway, Coronado, and much of San Diego. He is a former environmental attorney, and sits on the Subcommittee on the Environment within the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. He is a member of the Bipartisan Climate Solutions Caucus, and is the Climate Task Force Chair of the Sustainable Energy & Environment Caucus (SEEC). He created the Climate Playbook, containing dozens of bipartisan bills with the potential to pass now, to take immediate steps to combat climate change. He introduced the SUPER Act, based on UCSD research, to combat emissions from short-lived climate pollutants like methane, black carbon, and hydrofluorocarbons. He also recently voted to ban new offshore drilling along our coasts. He is working to preserve our environment, protect our clean air

Candidate Statements continued on page 6

Sierra Club Bus Trips

Part of the largest grassroots environmental organization in the country, Sierra Club provides environmentally friendly outdoor adventures.

Since 1982 the San Diego Chapter has been offering bus trips to a variety of National and State Parks.

What makes these trips special is that they are organized by a fantastic team of volunteer leaders and nobody pays them for their efforts. They do it out of an appreciation for these special places and a passion for sharing them with you. We look forward to having you join us on a bus trip to explore, enjoy and protect the planet.



Save the date for the following trips: 2020

April 22-26, 2020

Tonto National Forest, Arizona

Trip type: Backpack and bus camp/day hikes

May 20-24, 2020

**Grand Canyon National Park
Mather Campground**

Trip type: Backpack and bus camp/day hikes

July 15-19, 2020

Hoover Wilderness

Trip type: Backpack and bus camp/day hikes

August 12-16, 2020

Yosemite National Park

Trip Type: Backpack and possible bus camp/day hikes

September 10-13, 2020

Santa Rosa Island (Channel Islands National Park)

Trip Type: Short backpack to campground/Day hikes

October 7-11, 2020

Zion National Park

Trip type: Backpack and bus camp/day hikes

For more information or to register for the above Bus Trips, please visit www.sdsierraclub.org.

Like us on Facebook



CST2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California. Locations and dates are subject to change due to permit availability.

Sierra Club Against Sprawl

By George Courser and Peter Andersen

There will be two key votes of the people on the March primary ballot. We support a YES on proposition A (aye), the Safeguard our San Diego Countryside (SOS) initiative and a NO vote on proposition B (bad) the Newland Sierra sprawl project. You can find more information on the website Stop Sprawl at <https://www.stopsprawl.org/>

The cynically named Newland “Sierra” is possibly the most contentious project ever considered by Sierra Club and voters. But it is by no means new. This typical San Diego County Board of Supervisors “ZOMBIE” project keeps coming back in different forms - “Mont Chez,” Stonegate, and Merriam Mountain is the same project fought by Sierra Club for almost 20-years. This project will require massive grading and blasting, along with destruction of historic animal corridors that connect north into Riverside County and west to the coast.

When the County Board of Supervisors approved the project, Sierra Club learned the project would export 70% of the greenhouse gas (GHG) mitigation measures to areas outside San Diego County that are often not real, verifiable, or enforceable and would leave us with greater fire risk and thousands of extra cars on the 1-15 freeways, along with all the resulting air pollution.

But citizens rose up and Sierra Club assisted in gathering signatures to overturn the Board of Supervisors approval with a Referendum ballot initiative. This history making event, was the first time in 150-years a Board of Supervisors’ decision has been challenged to be overturned. The project will now be voted on in the upcoming March election, as Measure B (as in bad). Please vote NO on this destructive and climate ruining project.

In the same election on March 3, voters will get to approve Measure A, the SOS Initiative, to provide San Diego County residents with the ability to prevent sprawl projects that violate the County’s own general plan. Consistent with the general plan, developers would still be allowed

to build 60,000 new housing units with a broad range of affordability, including apartments and condos, townhouses, and single-family homes. These homes can still be built without approval from the voters in areas where roads, police, fire and schools already exist.

The Board of Supervisors, often on a 3-2 vote, can amend the General Plan to let developers, many of whom have supported the supervisors’ political campaigns, to build large sprawl housing developments on cheap rural and semi-rural land far from jobs, schools, and services. These sprawl projects would increase fire risk, air pollution and traffic.

Please see the SOS website <https://saveourcountryside.org/> for further information and how you as a Sierra Club member can assist in the battle to prevent urban sprawl and wildfire risks in the semi-rural and rural areas of San Diego County. Most importantly vote yes on A!

Please attend a benefit concert in Escondido on February 16 (See pg. 12) to support Yes on A and No on B. For tickets and more information go to <https://www.stopsprawl.org/>

SIERRA CLUB SOLAR PROGRAM
SAN DIEGO CHAPTER

Everyone wins when going solar with the Sierra Club Solar Program!

- You save money on your electric bill
- Sierra Club San Diego receives \$500
- Regional air pollution is minimized
- You support local union jobs

... and of course, your carbon footprint is reduced, helping fight climate change!

Sullivan Solar Power
Leading the Solar Energy Revolution

Sign up for a free site evaluation or check out educational solar events:

www.sierraclubsolarprogram.org

C10-839077

and water, and promote sustainability. He is proud to have received the endorsement of the Sierra Club.



Toni Atkins – CA State Senate, District 39

Growing up in Southwest Virginia, I saw firsthand the negative impacts of mining on the environment and the health of my family and neighbors, sparking my lifelong commitment to environmental justice. Over the course of my 14 years as an elected official, the environment has always been a priority. I've tackled issues from the tire problem in the Tijuana River Valley, to statewide issues such as enabling the California Coastal Commission to enforce public access to our beaches.

As the San Diego region works to adopt and implement its climate action plans, local government and local environmental activists will need to be able to rely on proven leadership at the state level. It is at the local level that the impacts of sea level rise will be seen. I am committed to making sure that the San Diego region is well prepared to take on that challenge.

I pledge to continue to use my position in public service to protect and advocate for the issues that matter most to the Sierra Club and I am honored to have your support for the State Senate



Tasha Boerner Horvath – State Assembly, 76th District

Hello Friends!

It has been a pleasure to represent Encinitas, Carlsbad, Oceanside, Vista, and Camp Pendleton in the State Assembly over the past year. I'm running for re-election to continue serving as an effective voice for North County, and for the environmental issues we so deeply care about.

In my first year in office, I was proud to support critical environmental legislation such as the Plastics Recycling Bill to require 30% recycled material in single use plastics and SB 1 to protect against Trump's rollbacks of our air and water quality. I was particularly honored to have my own bill, AB 1017, signed by the Governor, which increases safety in our rail corridors to help promote active transportation and reduce greenhouse gases.

As a fellow environmentalist, I am proud to have earned the endorsements of the Sierra Club, California League of Conservation Voters, and dozens of local Democratic elected leaders. I would be honored to earn your vote and continue fighting with you into 2020.

www.Tasha4Assembly.com
760.237.0350



Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher – State Assembly, 80th District

An environmental lawyer, Assemblymember Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher is a champion for conservation, and

clean energy. Since she entered office in 2013, Assemblymember Gonzalez Fletcher has been a strong ally to Sierra Club, championing policies that protect our waters, penalize poachers, and ensure everyone's right to access to California's beautiful coasts. Most recently, the assemblywoman celebrated the signing of her Assembly Bill 273 that banned the practice of fur trapping in California. She also secured a local legislative win with the signing of her Assembly Bill 1730, which enables San Diego County's local leaders to better prepare for the region's future growth. The measure allows SANDAG additional time to develop a visionary Regional Plan that provides real transportation choices that will enhance connectivity, increase safety and sustainability, and improve quality of life. Ms. Gonzalez Fletcher continues to double down in our fight to curb the negative effects of climate change and protect our planet.



Rafael Castellanos –Board of Supervisors, District 1

I'm fighting for the clean air, water and climate all of San Diego deserves. As

Port Commissioner, I'm leading the fight to clean up toxic sewage in the Tijuana River, which is polluting South Bay's water. That includes suing the Trump administration and fighting for the federal action we need to protect our water. I led the charge to pass the Port's landmark Climate Action Plan and accomplish the biggest clean-up in the history of San Diego Bay. As Supervisor, I'll fight for real action on climate change, environmental justice for polluted communities, more transit to reduce carbon emissions and 100% clean energy to power a healthier future for all of San Diego.



Joe LaCava – San Diego City Council, District 1

Joe has been a community leader for almost two decades, serving on nearly 30 civic

boards, local planning groups and commissions. He has a demonstrated commitment to standing up for the environment, with a proven track record of protecting open spaces and improving our quality of life in San Diego. Peter Anderson noted, "Without a doubt, Joe LaCava will be one of our strongest environmental advocates at City Hall."

Joe's priorities include the Climate Action Plan, creating a Climate Adaptation Plan, new housing that respects the environment, and responsive neighborhood services.

He advocated for the La Jolla Boulevard roundabouts and has opposed projects damaging to our environment, including SoccerCity, the Preserve at Torrey Highlands, and the original One Paseo project.

A San Diego native, Joe received his Civil Engineering degree from SDSU. Joe and his wife Lorene, a kindergarten teacher, raised two daughters in Bird Rock.



Marni von Wilpert – San Diego City Council, Dist. 5

Marni von Wilpert is currently a Deputy City Attorney, protect-

ing San Diego residents by working to hold environmental polluters accountable, going after the opioid industry, and finding concrete ways to address the city's homelessness crisis. Marni is running to ensure we address climate change by meeting the City's climate action goals, protect neighborhoods from wildfires, and invest in a world class transit system to reduce traffic and carbon emissions.

Marni has dedicated her career to public service as a civil rights and labor rights attorney. She has also provided legal representation for people living with HIV/AIDS who faced discrimination in housing, employment, and access to medical care. Before law school, she served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Botswana.

Statements continued on page 7

Marni grew up in the district, graduated Scripps Ranch High school, and now lives a few miles from her childhood home.



Raul Campillo – District 7

Raul Campillo is a former public school teacher and current Deputy City Attorney for the City of San Diego. Raul’s priorities are to strengthen our local economy by finding immediate, workable solutions to the mental health and homelessness epidemics, building more affordable housing, making public transit safer and faster, protecting Mission Trails and Cowles, and promoting public safety. Born and raised in San Diego, Raul graduated from Uni High School in Linda Vista and Harvard Law School. Raul is particularly excited to serve District 7 (Mission Valley and Linda Vista, east to Lake Murray, and north to Tierrasanta) because it would mean he also is appointed to the San Diego River Conservancy, thereby being in a position to promote the protection of native species, invest in technology to improve water quality, and oversee preservation of the San Diego River watershed.



Sean Elo – San Diego City Council, Dist. 9

As a proud environmentalist and member of the Sierra Club, I am honored to have your endorsement of my campaign for San Diego City Council District 9. I am committed to being a steadfast partner in the fight against climate change and for environmental justice.

Amongst my top priorities is committing the resources for San Diego to reach its Climate Action Plan goals by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, planting more trees, and protecting open space.

The planet is in the midst of an environmental crisis and I firmly believe bold local action can save us. With your help, San Diego can rise to the occasion and move our city toward the future-focused solutions necessary to protect our planet. Now let’s win this race so we can get to work.

www.seanelo.com for more information about how to get involved.

A Wall of Hatred and Corruption

by Javier Sierra

The Trump administration’s immigration policy looks more and more like a play written by some sadistic playwright.

The Army and the Department of Homeland Security are rushing to build a detention facility for immigrant families in Fort Bliss, Texas, — a base infamous for its toxic spills, storage of chemical poisons and unexploded munitions, according to documents obtained by Earthjustice through the Freedom of Information Act.

The base houses four Superfund sites, including heavy metals, volatile organic compounds and radioactive materials. Exposure to these toxins can cause cancer, neurological damage and development disorders. Who would come up with the idea of detaining families with young children in such a dreadful place?

Meet Stephen Miller, Donald Trump’s senior immigration advisor, the architect of the “zero tolerance” policy and, according to leaked emails, a white nationalist who detests the Latino and African-American communities.

The documents leaked to the Southern Poverty Law Center contain 900 emails between Miller, who is Jewish, and the white nationalist website Breitbart News during his period as a senior advisor to the Trump Election Campaign in 2016. In those, Miller promotes white nationalist conspiracy theories and supports anti-immigrant and anti-Muslim narratives. His own uncle, David S. Glosser, rejects his nephew’s immigration hardline and publicly reminds him that his Jewish family escaped prosecution or worse in Europe thanks to the very generosity he is now denying to other people in very similar situations.

The consequences of this cruel and racist mentality are heartbreaking. An investigation by the Associated Press (AP) and PBS revealed that this year, the Trump administration has detained 70,000 immigrant kids, causing irreversible psychological damage to many of them.

The report focuses on a three-year-old Honduran girl who arrived to the border in the arms of her father, who then applied for asylum. It adds that after being forcefully separated from him, suffering sexual abuse while in the custody of federal officials, and being deported and returned to Honduras, the child now suffers profound depression and accuses her father of abandoning her.

AP reporter Frank Bajak tweeted about his colleagues’ work saying, “No other country held as many immigrant children in detention over the past year as the United States — 69,550. The physical and emotional scars are profound.”

This national disgrace is being conducted on behalf of the whole country — in front of the astounded eyes of the rest of the civilized world — as openly as the administration’s scheming efforts to build the wall.

The company Fisher Land & Gravel got a \$400-million contract to build part of the wall after Trump personally and repeatedly recommended that they obtain it. The Army Corps of Engineers — the entity in charge of granting the contracts — had rejected Fisher’s proposal ruling it did not meet standards.

Fisher’s dubious contract, which has already triggered calls for investigation in Congress, stipulates the construction of 31 miles of new barriers in the Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge, Arizona, which will exacerbate even further the catastrophic and irreparable damages this racist project has already inflicted on the borderlands.

Whether these structures are new or reinforcements of existing ones, the level of devastation is staggering, causing flooding and erosion, blocking migration routes of endangered species and destroying landscapes that during millennia have harbored some of the richest habitats in North America.

When hatred and corruption partner to dictate a nation’s immigration policy, the result can exceed the imagination of the cruelest playwright.

Javier Sierra is a columnist for Sierra Club and Associate Director of Communications for Latino Media.

SAN DIEGO

Chapter Activities

All Activities are held at the Chapter Office 6:30pm unless otherwise stated:
8304 Clairemont Mesa Blvd., Suite 101, San Diego, CA 92111.

Our entrance is on the west end of the front building of Kearny Office Park, just west of I-163 and on the north side of Clairemont Mesa Blvd. Other environmental and activist events are posted at www.sdeln.org

2nd Friday Movie Night 6:30pm

Note: No Reservations needed, ever!

January 10, 2020

Movie: **United States of ALEC 2012**
31min 54sec

Moyers & Company presents "United States of ALEC," a report on the most influential corporate-funded political

force most of America has never heard of — ALEC, the American Legislative Exchange Council. A national consortium of state politicians and powerful corporations, ALEC presents itself as a "nonpartisan public-private partnership". But behind that mantra lies a vast network of corporate lobbying and political action aimed to increase corporate profits at public expense without public knowledge.

Using interviews, documents, and field reporting, the episode explores ALEC's self-serving machine at work, acting in a way one Wisconsin politician describes as "a corporate dating service for lonely legislators and corporate special interests."



February 14, 2020

Movie: **Harvest of Empire: The Untold Story of Latinos in America 2018**
1hr 34min

A powerful documentary that exposes the direct connection between the long history of U.S. intervention in Latin America and the immigration crisis we face today. From the territorial expansionist policies that decimat-

ed the young economies of Mexico, Puerto Rico and Cuba, to the covert operations that imposed oppressive military regimes in the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Nicaragua and El Salvador, Harvest of Empire provides an unflinching look at the origins of the growing Latino presence in the United States. Adapted from the landmark book written by journalist Juan Gonzalez, the film tells the story of an epic human saga that is largely unknown to the great majority of citizens in the U.S., but must become part of our national conversation about immigration.



March 13, 2020

Movie: **Ellis Island: The Making of a Master Race in America 2018**
1hr 9min

This film documents the influence of eugenics on the U.S. immigration policies then and now. It reconstructs the medical and mental examination of "aliens" at Ellis Island,

designed to exclude the "inferior stock" from Southern and Eastern Europe, and speaks of the agenda of race purification to create a Master Race in the U.S. through selection, sterilization, and elimination.



Chapter Outings

Chapter Outings are now an online listing only.

With the time gap between publishing and delivery of the HiSierran through the mail we believe this is the best way to get you up to date listings.

Go to: sandiegosierraclub.org

Then click on "Get Outdoors"

Sierra Talks

Sierra Talks are on the first Friday, starting with refreshments and representatives from Chapter groups at 6:30 pm and programs at 7 pm with discussions afterward. The location is the Joyce Beers Center at 3900 Vermont St., San Diego, 92103, across the street from Trader Joe's. Parking is available under Trader Joe's and Ralphs Market.

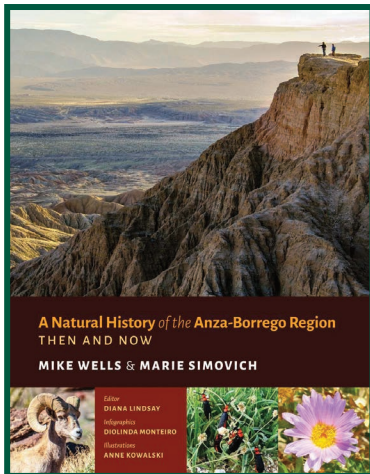
Sierra Talks are free and open to the public. Program Coordinator: Ernest "EL" Lotecka sdwalks@interactor.cc

February 7

Natural History of the Anza-Borrego Region: Then and Now

This presentation, based on the "go-to" book by the same name, is intended for anyone wanting to understand the natural environment of the Anza-Borrego region. The book evolved from a course on the natural history of the region taught at University of San Diego for 16 years by authors Mike Wells and Marie Simovich. They tell a coherent story of how the landscape and features of a desert region evolved over time, including how organisms that inhabit the desert have adapted to the conditions by taking many different evolutionary paths to deal with aridity, heat, and saline soils. The result is an amazing biological diversity that has evolved in response to these conditions. It also is about the first human inhabitants of the area!

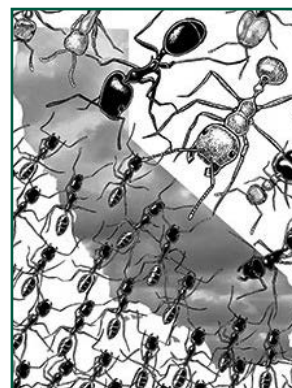
The presenter, Mike Wells, had a 34-year career with California State Parks from his first permanent assignment in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park to his final assignment as district superintendent of the Colorado Desert District. Mike has a PhD in physical geography. He was a lecturer for the Department of Biology, University of San Diego, from 2001–2017.



March 6

Insects are trying to tell us something, if only we spoke "Insectese". More and more, we are regularly greeted by headlines of pollinator declines and an impending "Insect Apocalypse." What are insects really telling us about the state of our planet? One study has estimated that the annual value of ecological services provided by insects in the United States to be at least \$57 billion. That puts insects at about #54 on the Fortune 500, just above Disney. This microscopic workforce is essential to healthy ecosystems, yet insects are generally viewed as nuisance vermin. It is time for a global lesson in "Insectese", a foreign language essential to understanding global biodiversity and conservation.

The presenter, Michael Wall, is curator of entomology at the San Diego Natural History Museum. He also currently serves as vice president of science and conservation. Dr. Wall is passionate about collections-based research and regional exploration.



Check out just some of our Sierra Club products at a great price: <http://donate.sierrasd.org/products>



Cooler bag with Sierra Club Logo
Price: \$15



Cup with Sierra Club Logo
Price: \$11



Cotton Canvas 1892 Retro Sierra Club Rucksack
Sale Price: \$21.50



E-conscious organic/recycled ball cap with John Muir silhouette and Sierra Club San Diego.
Price: \$20.00
Emerald Forest color cap with oyster colored stitching.

Eat—and Save the World:

The simple, healthful thing we all can do for the planet and the future.

By Laura Hunter, Conservation Chair, North County Group

When it comes to our own survival in the stark reality of climate change, time is quickly running out. Yes, there are decisive actions that governments must take to address the climate catastrophe, and Sierra Club will continue to advocate for them.

But, as individuals we must do our part too.

Fortunately, there is one action we all can take that is easy, inexpensive, and effective. We can eat a more plant-based diet. The fewer animal products each of us consume, the better our chances will be of arresting the worst aspects of climate change.

There are many reasons to reduce or eliminate animal products from your diet including health, compassion, environmental justice, food security, hunger, loss of biodiversity, impact on wild species, and many others. Here, however, we focus just on the proven, massive, destructive impact on the climate of animal agriculture.

Consider just a few impacts resulting from our animal-based diets:

- Emissions from animal agriculture are estimated as high as 51% of worldwide greenhouse gas emissions. ,
- Animal agriculture is a leading cause deforestation, loss of biodiversity, topsoil depletion and erosion, air and water pollution. ,
- Thirty-three percent of arable land on Earth is used to grow feed for livestock. Eighty percent of US agricultural land is used for raising animals for food or feed crops.
- Vast areas of forests are cleared and burned for cattle grazing and to grow cattle feed crops. Beef is the primary deforestation driver in Latin America and recent research suggests that it's also the largest driver globally.
- Feeding massive amounts of grain and water to farmed animals, killing them, then processing, transporting, and storing the product (refrigeration required) is extremely energy intensive.
- It takes an average of 11 times more fossil fuel energy to produce 1 calorie of animal protein than one calorie of plant-based protein. It can be up over 500 times more depending on the type of meat and plant-food being compared.
- Switching to a plant-based diet cuts emissions by up to 50%.
- Methane is a greenhouse gas 86 times more powerful than carbon dioxide. Ruminant animals (sheep, cows, goats) constantly generate methane through their digestive process, called enteric fermentation. This methane released through enteric fermentation and manure from 94.4 million cows in the US creates a significant, and preventable, contribution to climate change.
- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has shown that animal agriculture is the single largest source of methane in the U.S.

- Nitrous Oxide has nearly 300 times the warming potential of CO₂. Global farm animal production accounts for 65% of global N₂O emissions.
- Dairy products are just as damaging or worse. Animals are (ab)used longer before they are slaughtered, but the environmental impacts are the same.
- One million animals an hour are slaughtered to support our eating habits in the US. An hour. If fish and by-catch were included, it would be in the trillions.
- Agriculture uses 80% of our fresh water with half used by animal agriculture.
- Producing 1 kg of animal protein requires about 100 times more water than producing 1 kg of grain protein.
- To save 1,300 gallons of water, you can either stop flushing your toilet for 6 months, stop showering for 3 months, or eat one less meat-based burger.
- 175 threatened or endangered wild species are negatively impacted by animal agriculture.
- Forty percent of grain and 80% of soy are fed, not to people, but to animals.
- If each person cut back our animal consumption by just 10%, one 1 billion animals would be spared a lifetime of suffering each year and the impacts of industrialized animal agriculture would be diminished.
- If we made one change, eating beans instead of beef, we could meet our US climate reduction goals.

For your health

Eating more plants is not something you do just for the planet, it is better for your health. A plant-based diet can reverse heart-disease, Type-2 diabetes, obesity, and can improve overall health outcomes in major disease categories. It would also avert some of the 320,000 obesity- and chronic-disease-related deaths each year.

Check out Physicians for Responsible Medicine and the videos What the Health? And Forks Over Knives to learn more.

If you are compelled by economic arguments consider the country could save up to \$180 billion if we ate according to recommended dietary guidelines and \$250 billion annually by forgoing animal products altogether.

What happens if we don't reduce animal product consumption?

Together, the world's top five meat and dairy corporations are now responsible for more annual greenhouse gas emissions than Exxon, Shell, or BP. Eighty percent of Amazon deforestation is due to cattle raising.

By 2050, we must reduce global emissions by 38 billion tons to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius. If all other sectors follow a reduction path while the meat and dairy industry's growth continues as projected, the livestock sector could 'eat' up 80% of the allowable GHG budget in just 32 years. ,

According to the National Academy of Sciences adoption of

Save the World continued on page 11

Save the World continued from page 10

a plant-based diet could cut food-related emissions by as much as 70% and make people healthier too.

Bottom-line, the world cannot meet global greenhouse gas reduction targets without significantly curbing consumption of animal products. As a high meat eating nation which consumes 2.6 times more meat than the global per capita average, we must help shoulder this responsibility.

The San Diego Sierra Club community can make a very positive contribution to climate stability by reducing animal consumption.

Our potential to reduce local emissions, as a San Diego Sierra Club community, is significant. If our 20,000 supporters stopped eating animal products altogether, it would reduce GHG emissions 19,200 tons CO2e tons/annually. With a reduction by 50% , we would reduce by 9,600 tons/year. Just a 10% reduction by our supporters would result in 2,400 tons lower emissions annually. Countywide a mere 10% reduction in consumption of animal products would avoid 267,000 tons of emissions.

San Diego Sierra Club will be looking into adoption of a platform of ways to incorporate climate friendly diets in our work. If you are interested in this topic, please email me at [HYPERLINK "mailto:conservation@ncgsierraclub.org"](mailto:conservation@ncgsierraclub.org) conservation@ncgsierraclub.org

Eating More Plants will allow the future to be possible.

Like the stock market, when it comes to the diversity life on this planet past performance is no guarantee of future results. Eating more plants and less animals is an easy way each of us can reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve our health, and practice our compassion every day.

As we have on so many other issues, let's join together to do our part, for the present and the future.

Sierra Club San Diego Chapter Welcomes Our New Executive Committee Members

Our members have spoken and elected 4 new members to the Chapter Executive Committee. Elected to 1-year terms were Evlyn Andrade and Lisa Ross. Elected to 3-year terms were Cody Petterson and David Rousseau. Continuing to serve on the Executive Committee are David Hogan, Krista Davidson, and Amanda Mascia. The Chapter officers for 2020 are David Hogan, Chair, Lisa Ross, Vice-Chair, and Amanda Mascia, Secretary. The Executive Committee appointed Orion Hudgins to continue as Chapter Treasurer.



Sierra Club North County Coastal Group Quarterly Meeting Tuesday, January 28th 7:00 - 8:30 pm Encinitas Community Center

GUEST SPEAKERS:

Catherine Blakespeare.

Join us for a special presentation from Encinitas Mayor, Catherine Blakespeare who will review her environmental priorities and answer your questions.

Special Presentation:

San Diego Needs "Smart Growth" to solve its housing crisis! Learn about the SOS Ballot Measure and how it will prevent urban sprawl.

Years ago the County spent millions developing a Smart Growth plan that our officials ignore. See what actually could happen if SOS does not pass. Learn how we can support development that considers infrastructure issues, wildfire dangers, protection of our wildlife and open spaces and the impact of urban sprawl on our rural settings.

Meeting is free of charge and open to the public!



The North County Group would like to welcome our two newest members to the Executive Committee, Amanda Chaban

and Natasha Jaksch, and our returning member, Kit Davis. Although Kelly Conrad and Laura Hunter will no longer be serving on the Executive Committee, they will remain involved in the North County Group, Kelly as the Wilderness Basics Course Chair, and Laura as the Conservation Committee Chair and member of the Political Committee.

ROCK

FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

sponsored by **SAS** STOP ALL SPRAWL

Doors open at 5pm

February 16, 2020

Concert at 6pm

Spin Doctors



Mike Keneally &



TIM FLANNERY

with Jeff Berkley




CALIFORNIA
CENTER FOR THE ARTS
ESCONDIDO
340 N Escondido Blvd.
Escondido, CA

Tickets start at \$35
On Sale Now!

Use the link below
www.StopSprawl.org

Special VIP tickets are available and include:
Premium seating • Meet & Greet with the Bands
Pre-Concert Reception • Hosted beer & wine
Private Environmental Art Show!

Ad paid for by Sierrans Against Sprawl | FPPC # 1422349

Inspiring Connections Outdoors

Bill Tayler
San Diego, ICO Co-Chair



Monzogranite Memories

by Bill Tayler

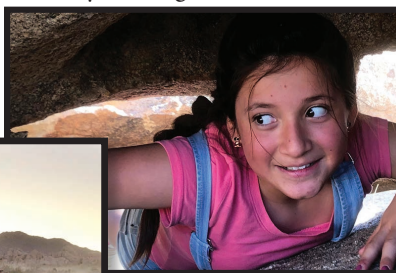
Kids like to climb, and for kids, nothing is more climbable than the rough surface of monzogranite. And for monzogranite, there's probably no place better than Joshua Tree National Park, which is where San Diego ICO took kids on a camping trip in October.

We spent two nights camping at Indian Cove, which offers countless climbing opportunities right next to camp. While at camp, the kids were on the rocks finding their own personal perches and secret caves even before breakfast, and they kept climbing as the sun set (and well after). In our camp safety talk, we always tell the kids to be careful about rattlesnakes, and, sure enough just a short hike from camp, we found a juvenile Speckled Rattlesnake coiled up on a high ledge waiting for the sun to reach it. In the cool morning, it sat quietly while the kids took turns observing from a safe distance. For kids, Indian Cove has to be one of the best places for a weekend of camping.

On Saturday, we drove into the heart of the Park and spent the day exploring one of my favorite places – the Wonderland of Rocks area just northeast of Barker Dam. There we found the ruins of an old pink ranch house, granite lizards earning their name, a friendly tarantula crossing the trail, and, of course, endless opportunities to climb up, squiggle inside of, crawl through, and jump over the piles of rocks. We try to bring kids to Joshua Tree twice a year, and we are already looking forward to our next trip in March!



Sunset at Camp



Belly Crawling



We LOVE Rocks



Hello Little Rattlesnake!



Morning at Camp



Airborn

Inspiring Connections Outdoors is a Sierra Club outreach program that provides free outdoor experiences to under-served youth, to help them exploring the outdoors, develop the skills to do it safely, and nurture a desire to protect natural spaces. Please visit our website at www.sandiegosierraclub.org

Volunteering With ICO – For information about volunteering with ICO, please contact Greg Shadoan (gregshadoan@yahoo.com).

How to Donate – We appreciate your support helping us to provide exciting, safe adventures free of charge. To receive a tax credit for your donation, please make your check payable to "Sierra Club Foundation/San Diego ICO" and send to:

San Diego ICO
c/o Mike Gilligan,
3446 N. Mountain View Drive,
San Diego, CA 92116

Wheeling for a Worthy Cause

December 7th marked the Bicycle Section's 26th Annual Jingle Bell Toy Ride. Sierra Club riders braved a downpour to deliver toys to the Salvation Army. They had vowed that neither rain, snow, sleet, or hail would deter them. After all, Santa and his reindeer don't cancel for inclement weather. In the interest of safety, riders took an abbreviated ride with the hopes of finishing the planned course along the Bayshore Bikepath and Gordy Shields Bicycle Bridge on a sunnier day. Join us! Our rides appear on-line: www.sandiegosierraclub.org/get-outdoors/bicycle



Classified Ads

MAMMOTH CONDO

Right behind Chart House
3 bd/2 ba. Full kitchen. Free WiFi.
w/burning stove. 4 flat screens.
\$95 and up per night.
Call Brad 619-804-5616
bradchapma@aol.com

IDYLLWILD, CUSTOM LOG HOME VACATION RENTAL

The Bear's Den, 2,600 s/f, 4 Bd/2Ba,
Sleeps 12, WiFi, Gourmet Kitchen, Great
Rm, 1 Acre Lot, near Humber Park. On
both Creeks!!! All linens provided, beds
made up. Couple Rates Available. Go to:
<http://www.idyllwildvacationcabins.com/bearsden.htm> or contact our Property
Manager, Martha at: 951-663-0527

FOR SALE - TINY WILDLIFE REFUGE - 1.88 ACRES

VR-2 zoned with comfortable/efficient
3bedroom/2bath house that sets in
special niche. Incredible privacy and
solitude. View and level land. Private
paved road with four entrances.
Connecting street has sidewalks, bike
lanes, middle lane. Quick stroll into
village. 12500 Del Sol Road, Lakeside
92040. \$550,000. dianajk@earthlink.net.

Save Trees-Opt Out Of The HiSierran Paper Edition

Enjoy The
Full Color Online Edition

It is very expensive to mail hard copies of the HiSierran! Would you rather get yours online and help save trees and save money for conservation? We can email you when a new copy is posted online with a link.

We PROMISE we will NOT share your email. If you would like to get the HiSierran online, contact the Chapter office :

858-569-6005 or
richard.miller@sierraclub.org.

Submission Deadlines for HiSierran Newsletter:

If you would like to submit an advertisement, story or article please remember these important deadlines: **Upcoming Issues:**

April/May/June 2020
Deadline is March 1st 2020

**To submit by email,
please email to both:**
info@thomascreative.com
richard.miller@sierraclub.org

**Submissions are subject to
approval for content and
subject matter.**

Classified Ad Rates and Information:

Sierra Club Members (up to 25 words)
Private party

\$10 + \$.50 per additional word.

Business-\$15 + \$.50 per additional word.

Non-Members (up to 25 words) Private party-\$15 + \$.50 per additional word.

Business-\$20 + \$.50 per additional word

Payment must be made at time of submission

by check to: Sierra Club San Diego

8304 Clairemont Mesa Blvd. #101

San Diego, CA 92111

Send ad to: info@thomascreative.com

Like What You Are Reading?

Support your local Chapter's work
in the San Diego region!

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$200 Surprise us! \$_____

Please make your check payable to Sierra Club San Diego or use your credit card.

Please select payment method:

MasterCard Visa Discover American Express

Card Number: _____ CVV:_____

Exp. date _____ Name on card: _____

Signature: _____

Contributions to the Sierra Club are not tax-deductible as they support the Sierra Club's effective citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts

Return instructions:

Cut out this form and mail it with your check to:



SIERRA CLUB
SAN DIEGO CHAPTER

8304 Clairemont Mesa Blvd, Ste #101

San Diego, California

92111-1315

Donate online:

<http://sandiegosierraclub.org/donate>

Committees & Contact Information

Meetings are held at the Sierra Club office or conference room unless otherwise indicated.

CHAPTER STAFF

Chapter Director Richard Miller
858-569-6005
richard.miller@sierraclub.org

Administrative Assistant: Marty Marquez
858-569-6005
martha.marquez@sierraclub.org

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Meets 2nd Wednesday 6:30 pm Chapter office

Chair: David Hogan (2021)
760-809-9244
hogansierraclub@gmail.com

Vice-Chair: Lisa Ross (2020)
lisa@lisaross.com
www.lisaross.com

Secretary: Amanda Mascia (2020)
858-880-8917
amandamascia77@gmail.com

North County Group Rep.

Doug Grover
858-229-7757
dgroverd@gmail.com

North County Coastal Group Rep.

Sally Prendergast
760-525-5156
sallyp123@mac.com

Evlyn Andrade (2020)
evlyn57@gmail.com

Krista Davidson (2021)
404-790-0336
kmdavidson910@gmail.com

Cody Petterson (2022)
jcodyp@hotmail.com

David Rousseau (2022)
bayparkdr@yahoo.com

Treasurer (Non-Voting):
Orion Hudgins
orion@orioncpa.com

NORTH COUNTY COASTAL GROUP (COASTERS)

Contact Rep or check website for meeting information.

Rep: Sally Prendergast
760-525-5156
sallyp123@mac.com

NORTH COUNTY GROUP (INLAND)

http://sierraclubncg.org
Contact Chair for time and location.

Chair: Suzi Sandore
760-484-3440
hikersuzi16@gmail.com

COMMITTEES

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Meets 2nd Monday at 6:30 pm Chapter Office.
Chair: George Courser 858-231-0156
gcourser@hotmail.com

International

Call for meeting information
Jean Costa (619) 463-0721

Transportation

David Grubb 760--753-0273
DavidGrubb@sbcglobal.net

Wildlife

Renee Owens 619-201-1965
renee@wildlifezone.net

POLITICAL COMMITTEE

Meets 1st Tuesday at 7:00pm Chapter Office
Chair: Fred Rogers
ferogers@gmail.com

OUTINGS COMMITTEE

Meets quarterly, contact Chair for date and location.

Chair:Chair: Bob Stinton
sd.outchair@gmail.com

Leadership Review & Safety Committee

Chair: Michael Taylor (619 -948-2062)
sd.lrsc@gmail.com

Meets quarterly, call for information.

Bus Trips

Mike Fry (858) 748-5166

Chapter Outings Leadership Training (COL)

Stefanie Maio
sd.col.training@gmail.com

Pacific Crest Trail

Rob Langsdorf (858) 454-4777
SDSCPCTS@yahoo.com

SEAL SOCIETY

For meeting and docent information:

Ellen Shively
ellenshively@sbcglobal.net
619-479-3412

WILDERNESS BASICS COURSE (WBC)

Held annually beginning in January

San Diego

Bryan Pray
info@wildernessbasics.com
www.wildernessbasics.com

Escondido

Kelly Conrad
slpypup@gmail.com
www.wbc.sierraclubncg.org

SECTIONS & SOCIAL COMMITTEES

Bicycle

Call for meeting information. Jerry Fitzsimmons
(858) 224-3437 Membership@sdscls.org.
www.sandiegosierraclub.org/get-outdoors/
bicycle

Family

Jennifer Douglas
(858) 344-5490
jenniferdouglassvettel@gmail.com
www.meetup.com/SDSierraClubFamily

Photography

www.sandiego.sierraclub.org
Steven Cirone
stevencirone@gmail.com
Social Sierrans- formerly Singles
Beverly Kanawi
bev.kanawi@gmail.com

INSPIRING CONNECTIONS OUTDOORS (ICO)

Call or check website for meeting information.
www.sandiegosierraclub.org
Chair: Bill Tayler, (858) 272-8574
btayler@taylorlaw.com

PROGRAM COMMITTEES

Fundraising/Membership

Richard Miller (858) 569-6005
richard.miller@sierraclub.org

Hi Sierran Newsletter

Managing Editor: Judy Thomas
thomascreative@cox.net

SIERRA TALKS, MONTHLY PROGRAM

1st Friday of every month

Program Manager: Ernest "EL" Lotecka
(760) 533-2725
sdwalks@interactor.cc

Create an Environmental Legacy.

Bequests have played a key role in Sierra Club's environmental successes over the years.

Planning now may make your gift more meaningful and reduce taxes on your estate. We have many gift options available. We can even help you plan a gift for your local Chapter.

For more info and confidential assistance, contact
Gift Planning Program
85 Second St, 2nd Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105
(800) 932-4270
planned.giving@sierraclub.org



San Diego Chapter

8304 Clairemont Mesa Blvd. #101

San Diego, CA 92111

On the north side & just west of the 163.

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00am – 5:00pm

Phone: 858-569-6005

www.sandiegosierraclub.org

Beach Closure for La Jolla's Harbor Seal's Pupping Season

For the past five years on 15 December, a "Beach Closed" sign is placed across the mid level stairs leading to Casa Beach as humans vacate Casa Beach, (Children's Pool) to give up the sand for the annual harbor seal pupping season. Most humans leave the premises readily as the 60 some degree winter coastal waters are quite chilly. Not so constrained, a number of gravid female harbor seals increase their presence on the sandy beach enclosure to nearly full time to prepare for the arrival of their pups, due around February, March and April. Having "shared the beach" with human recreational activities for the other seven months of the year, the seals need this exclusive use to complete the nine month gestation period, free from visitors and potential disturbances. After birth, the mother nurses her pup for 6 or 7 weeks while earnestly showing it all the skills required for survival in their ocean domain.

The weaning is firm and mothers can be seen flipping over when the weaner persists in looking for another easy meal. Females need this free time for their bodies to restore the maternal hormonal balance in preparation for mating season

(May to June) to complete the annual reproduction cycle.

The Chapter's Seal Society docents try to take advantage of this time to educate the increased number of visitors to the beach areas wanting to witness this awesome natural annual cycle. We will offer an illustrated "Talk and Walk" at the Mangelsen's Photo Gallery in La Jolla on a biweekly basis for the general public. We will also continue to provide training to become docents for any interested member (or

others). Our training is free, and given in three 1.5 hour sessions, either individually or in a class setting. If you are interested in this satisfying and worthy volunteer offering, please contact co-coordinator of training: ellenshively@sbcglobal.net.



photos courtesy Pam Thomas